

**2000 – 2001 NEW APPLICANT FACT SHEET
CALIFORNIA
ROBERT C. BYRD HONORS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program (Program) is a federally-funded program designed to promote student excellence and achievement. These scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of merit to recognize exceptionally able students who show promise of continued academic excellence. The Program is administered by the California Student Aid Commission (Commission). Selected scholars must enroll in and attend a United States (U.S.) institution of higher education beginning in the fall term of the 2000-2001 academic year, in return they will receive up to a \$1,500 scholarship award. Continued funding is supported entirely by federal funds and, as such, the Program is subject to rescission or amendment which may result in a reduction or complete loss of funds, notwithstanding the rules or benefits at the time the award is made. Depending on the availability of federal funding, the scholarships may be renewed up to four years for enrollment in an accredited U.S. postsecondary institution.

WHO CAN APPLY

To meet eligibility requirements, federal law requires that an applicant must:

- Be a legal resident of California. (See the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application.)
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen. (See the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application.)
Note: Documentation from the U.S. Naturalization and Immigration Service must accompany the application.
- Graduate from a public or private secondary school between 7/1/1999 and 6/30/2000 or receive the equivalent of a certificate of graduation as recognized by the California State Department of Education between 7/1/1999 and 4/1/2000.
- Enroll and attend a U.S. postsecondary public or private nonprofit institution on a full-time basis during the fall term of the 2000-2001 academic year.
- Be considered a freshman beginning in the fall term of the 2000-2001 academic year.
- File a Statement of Selective Service Registration Status with the 2000-2001 postsecondary institution's financial aid office, unless the institution certifies that the applicant is not required to file this statement.
- Submit a Certification Form ED 80-0016, attesting to the fact that they are not delinquent or in default on a federal scholarship or educational loan with the application.
- Not be in default of a student loan.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible high school students currently enrolled in a California high school must apply through their designated high school Program coordinator.

Eligible students who meet the above requirements **and who are not currently** attending a California high school should obtain and submit a completed application package directly to the Commission, Attn: Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOTE: Applicants currently enrolled in high school must adhere to the application deadlines set by their high school campus for the Program since all nomination packages must be submitted by the designated high school coordinator.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Every California public or private secondary education institution may nominate up to two (2) applicants. Each high school wishing to make nominations for this Scholarship must submit completed application materials for each nominee. A complete application package will include:

- Honors Scholarship Program Nomination Form (G-194)
- Honors Scholarship Program Application (G-192)
- Certification Form ED 80-0016

NOMINATION/APPLICATION DEADLINE

All completed application materials must be postmarked by **May 1, 2000** and submitted to the Commission at P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOTE: Incomplete applications, applications from ineligible students, and those postmarked after the deadline will not receive consideration in the selection process.

SCHOLAR SELECTION AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission will review all nominations and rank eligible applicants by grade point average (using Scholastic Aptitude Test and/or American College Test scores as tie breakers). Provided that funding is available, all eligible nominees will be notified of their program status in June 2000.

Selected scholars will receive their award (prorated by enrollment status and academic term) at their postsecondary institution's financial aid office. Receipt of this Scholarship may affect other financial aid entitlement(s).

For additional information, please contact the Commission's Specialized Programs Unit at (916) 526-8250.